

NUHS Student Curriculum

Course Descriptions

Evidence Based Practice 1: Study Designs for Biomedical Research

Credits 0.5

This course overviews study designs used in clinical research to answer clinical questions of therapy, diagnosis, screening, prognosis, harm and others. Students will sharpen their skills recognizing and developing patient-centered clinical questions and the type of question posed as well as the research hypothesis and the study design used. Students will learn the strengths, limitations and applications of various study designs, as a prelude to analyzing biomedical research articles critically. The course will be developed to include approximately 8 hours of on-line learning content and a final exam to be taken in person on campus at a specified time at the end of the trimester.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Fundamentals of Natural Medicine and Fundamentals of Microbiology and Public Health or equivalent progress in other NUHS programs with consent of the instructor, academic advisor and academic dean. Students must have adequate computer skills for the use of on-line learning resources.

Evidence Based Practice 2: Critical Appraisal of the Biomedical Literature, Credits 1.0

The focus of this course is research literacy, appraisal of clinical research studies and the application of the best research evidence to patient care and clinical practice. Students will sharpen their skills recognizing and developing both the research hypothesis and patient-centered clinical questions as well as searching the highest quality and most significant clinical and basic science literature and databases, including complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) specific databases. Students will learn to appraise and analyze the research studies and evaluate the evidence before deciding to apply the best evidence to patient and health care issues. Students will learn to effectively communicate literature reviews, analyses and conclusions in written, oral, and electronic formats to patients, peers and professionals. Students will develop the skills for effective and efficient information management, research literacy and evidence based practice (EBP) habits to accelerate learning and expand basic and clinical science knowledge.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EBP 1. EBP 1 and EBP 2 may not be taken concurrently.

Evidence Based Practice 3: Applied Evidence Based Practice Credits 1.0

Building on the skills learned in EBP 1 and EBP 2, this course emphasizes the professional application of Evidence Based Practice (EBP). Applied EBP is emphasized, including questioning, researching, analyzing and communicating clinically relevant information. Focusing on clinically relevant topics such as headache, neck, thoracic, and low back pain, as well as non-musculoskeletal problems such as asthma, hypertension, etc., students will form appropriate clinical questions and search the research and clinical literature, including complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) databases using limits, MeSH terms, etc. Students will develop and demonstrate the skills to analyze and evaluate the literature, and determine the clinical value and relevance of the evidence. The course will also focus on communication: the presentation of the evidence, analysis, evaluation and conclusion in written and oral and electronic formats to peers, professionals and patients. Students will develop clinical reasoning, critical thinking, creativity, resourcefulness and coping skills, using an evidence-based practice approach to professional development and continuing education. CAM professionals will present applied EBP content as guest lecturers at various times during the trimester.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EBP 2 with concurrent or successful completion of Advanced Diagnosis, or equivalent progress in other NUHS programs with consent of course instructor(s), academic advisor and academic dean.

Evidence Based Practice 4: EBP Journal Club

Credits 0.5

This class is an interactive course designed to sharpen the students' research literacy and evidence based practice (EBP) skills. Applied EBP is emphasized, including questioning, researching, analyzing and communicating clinically relevant information. The overall objective of this course is to create sound EBP habits in students preparing to become physicians. Students will research, develop and present a journal club of clinically relevant, important and applicable research literature to a small group of peers and practicing clinical mentors and professionals, using key evidence based practice skills (asking, accessing, appraising, applying and assessing) along with the concepts of critical appraisal of the literature. Emphasis is placed on how the research and clinical literature impacts clinical decisions.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Phase 2 of the DC program or equivalent progress in other NUHS programs.

Evidence Based Practice 5: EBP Journal Club

Credit: required participation for clinical competency evaluation

This class is an interactive course designed to sharpen the students' research literacy and evidence based practice (EBP) skills. Applied EBP is emphasized, including questioning, researching, analyzing and communicating clinically relevant information. The overall objective of this course is to create sound EBP habits in students preparing to become physicians. Students will research, develop and present a journal club of clinically relevant, important and applicable research literature to a small group of peers and practicing clinical mentors and professionals, using key evidence based practice skills (asking, accessing, appraising, applying and assessing) along with the concepts of critical appraisal of the literature. Emphasis is placed on how the research and clinical literature impacts clinical decisions.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of EBP4.

EL6521

Independent Research Study

Credits 1 to 7

This course allows students, under the supervision of research faculty, to design and conduct their own study, to conduct searches and appraisals of current biomedical literature related to a topic or study, to assist in studies in progress at National University of Health Sciences or other partnering universities, or to participate in the Evidence Based Practice (EBP) Mentored Research Program with the NUHS Research Department and the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC). This course also may be used to research, write and publish a case report or case study under the guidance of mentoring faculty and clinical professionals. It provides an opportunity for students to learn the discipline of research as well as to provide new information from the results of the research project itself.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all courses prescribed in Phase 1 of the professional programs, approval of the faculty member who will serve as Research Advisor and the Dean of Research.

Participation in the EBP Mentored Research Program requires the completion of a competitive application available from the NUHS Research Department and acceptance into the Mentored Research Program (MRP). See www.NUHS.edu > About Us > Research Mentored Research.